Kathleen Dillon Collection

Creator: Kathleen Dillon  
Dates: 1943-1945  
Quantity: .25 linear feet  
Acquisition: George Luedeke Jr., February 17, 2012  
Identification: PMML ID# 800117, OCLC# 793355685, Call# PAPERS 00106  
Citation: [Document Title]. The Kathleen Dillon Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.  
Language: English  
Finding Aid: Written by Erica Valle; Updated by Julie Murray, August 2013; Updated by Andrea Martinez, 2018

Archival collections are stored at a remote archival facility. Please contact the Museum & Library at least 48 hours in advance of your visit to view an archival collection.

Biographical Note

Kathleen Dillon was born on March 6th, 1915 in New York.

When the United States entered World War II, Kathleen joined the American Red Cross. Dillon was sent to India to support the armed forces in the China-Burma-India Theater and arrived in Calcutta in January of 1944. The following month, she was assigned to the 97th Station Hospital in Agra, India, where she remained until November 1944. While on leave in India, she took a trip to Shrinagar on Dal Lake in the Kashmir in October 1944. In December of 1944, she reported for duty at the 198th Station Hospital in Dacca, India, where she stayed until November 1945. Dillon then returned home to the United States on the U.S.S. General Greeley. She later became a successful entrepreneur who traveled the world many times over.

Kathleen Dillon died on December 21st, 2004.
Scope and Content of the Collection

This collection contains letters, photos, and other memorabilia from Kathleen Dillon’s service with the American Red Cross during World War II. She served in the Asiatic-Pacific and European-African-Middle Eastern Theaters. The collection is largely made up of hundreds of photographs she took there, including photos of Calcutta, the 97th Station Hospital, and her trip to the Kashmir. Other items include Kathleen’s Red Cross patch and a framed photo montage summarizing her time in the CBI Theater of Operations ARC service.

Arrangement

Series One: Official Government Documents

This series contains three official government documents: a port of embarkation certificate, a "Glorious and Illustrious Sons of Magellan" certificate, and a booklet.

Series Two: Correspondence

This series contains a letter of tribute to Kathleen from a patient and a letter from the American Red Cross authorizing Kathleen to wear ribbons for her service during the war.

Series Three: Photo Album

This series contains a photo album with hundreds of photos of Kathleen that are categorized by page. They include, but are not limited to: more photos of Kathleen in India, photos of military personnel, and photos of the 97th Station Hospital.

Rights

Copyrights held by George Luedke, Jr. were transferred to the Pritzker Military Museum & Library. All other rights are held by the author or publisher. Users assume responsibility for following copyright laws as established by US Code Title 17.

Separations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item ID</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>800117090</td>
<td>Pinocchio Statue in Glass Dome</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
800117091  Bust of Kathleen Dillon, circa 1944
800117092  Framed Photo Montage
800117093  American Red Cross Military Welfare Service Patch - Located in Box 1
800117094  Book: The Sad Sack
800117095  Book: Rubiyat of Omar Khayyam
800117096  Book: The City of Tai
800117097  Book: A Pocket Guide to India

Photographs - Located in "Photograph Collection" 1943-1945

Thanksgiving Dinner 1945 1945
800117005  Kathleen seated at the table with unknown people. Caption: "Thanksgiving - 1945 - aboard the Gen Greeley" 1945
800117006  Kathleen and others seated at the table raising their glasses. 1945

Kathleen in American Red Cross Uniform  n.d.
800117007  Kathleen in uniform looking off to the side (3 photos, different sizes)  n.d.
800117008  Kathleen in uniform looking at the camera  n.d.

Kathleen and Sgt. Floyd Fedder at Dal Lake in the Kashmir, India 1944
800117009  Sgt. Fedder in a headscarf smoking a pipe near the lake 1944
800117010  Sgt. Fedder posing in a headscarf and skirt 1944
800117011  Sgt. Fedder in headscarf and skirt squatting on a chamber pot 1944
800117012  Sgt. Fedder lounging shirtless near the lake 1944
800117013  Man and woman sitting in the shade near the lake 1944
800117014  Kathleen and two others sitting near a water fountain (2 copies) 1944
Kathleen's Trip to the Kashmir, India with fellow military personnel

A man posing in front of the fountain and scenery
Kathleen and Sgt. Fedder lounging and smiling (2 copies)
Kathleen and Sgt. Fedder getting off a plane (2 copies)
Kathleen and a man lying down outside in the shade

Kathleen in a polka-dotted shirt (2 copies)
A man sitting on a boat with a camera around his neck
Kathleen and several others on a tour boat on the lake
A man and a woman on the boat
A man posing with a pipe in his mouth
The same man with a cigarette in his mouth, sailboats in background
Kathleen on a horse
Kathleen and a man on horses
An Indian child standing near the lake
Darkened photo of a person in front of a fountain
Two Indian children in front of the lake
An Indian woman in front of the fountain
A man in front of the fountain
Several people rowing a boat
Kathleen lying on her stomach in a bathing suit
A man posed in front of a building called the Persian House
A houseboat on the lake
A stone entrance to the lake
Mountains surrounding the lake
More mountains surrounding the lake
Aerial view of lake and mountains
Photo of what appears to be fancy molding on a building
Aerial photo of a man canoeing on the lake
Blurry aerial photo of a town
Another blurry aerial photo of a town
Blurry photo of two men
A woman swimming in the water, taken from above
Kathleen swimming
Photo of a wide open field and hills
Photo of the lake and mountains
Blurry photo of the lake
Another photo of the lake and mountains in sepia
Photo of the edge of a forest (two copies)
Photo of a forest and mountains (two copies)
Photo of a row of boats for hire
Another photo of a row of boats for hire
Photo of people waterskiing
Photo of a long boat being rowed
Photo of a man waterskiing
Photo of Kathleen waterskiing (2 copies)
Photo of Kathleen trying to stand on waterskis
Photo taken from lake of the shore
Photo of lake with houses
Aerial photo of town
Photo taken from a plane that shows the wing and scenery below
Photo of a hill on the edge of the forest
800117065  Aerial photo of town and lake  1944
800117066  Photo of a canoe with flowers  1944
800117067  Photo of ducks on the lake  1944
800117068  Photo of a stuffed animal  1944
800117069  Photo of a horse-drawn carriage on a street  1944
800117070  Photo of the mountains and lake (2 copies)  1944
800117071  Photo of a water fountain  1944
800117072  A different view of the water fountain  1944
800117073  Some kind of stone wall on the lake  1944
800117074  Photo of a boat on the lake (2 copies)  1944
800117075  Photo of the lake looking mossy  1944
800117076  A man on a sailboat  1944
800117077  A sailboat on the lake  1944
800117078  Photo of water cascading down a fountain  1944
800117079  Another photo of water cascading down a fountain  1944
800117080  Photo of a house  1944
800117081  Photo of two houseboats, one with a "Buckingham Palace" sign  1944
800117082  Photo of a large tree on the lake  1944
800117083  Photo of trees and mountains  1944

**Large Photos**  1945, n.d.

800117084  Copy of photograph of Kathleen in uniform taken in Dacca, India. Caption: "Love, Kathleen"  1945
800117085  Photograph of Kathleen taken on her way to Europe after the war  n.d.
800117086  Another copy of photograph of Kathleen in uniform taken in Dacca, India. Caption: "Love, Kathleen"  1945
Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library’s online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Names

Dillon, Kathleen. -- 1915-2004
Dillon, Kathleen. -- Correspondence

Subjects

World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- History -- Pictorial works
World War, 1939-1945 -- India
World War, 1939-1945 -- War work -- Red Cross

Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Item ID #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>800117001</td>
<td>Army Service Forces Port of Embarkation certificate with autographs</td>
<td>11/8/1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>800117002</td>
<td>&quot;Glorious and Illustrious Sons of Magellan&quot; Certificate</td>
<td>12/6/1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>800117003</td>
<td>&quot;A Yank's Magic Carpet&quot; Booklet</td>
<td>1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>800117004</td>
<td>Typewritten letter in tribute to Kathleen from</td>
<td>10/2/1945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sgt. Bob Saffron

Letter from American Red Cross authorizing Kathleen to wear ribbons for her service during the war (American, Asiatic-Pacific, and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater).

Series Three: Photo Album (separated by page) 1943-1945

Page 1
No headline
A mountain and part of a shoulder patch

Page 2
Headline: "ARC Hostel at 96 Russa Road, Calcutta, India."

Caption: "1/45 - Two of the ayahs at the ARC Hostel in Calcutta. Note nose jewels."  Jan-45

Caption: "1/45 - Rear of ARC Hostel in Calcutta. Note bomb wall."  Jan-45

Three women sitting at a table. Caption: "1/44 - at ARC Hostel in Calcutta."  Jan-44

Page 3
No headline

Caption: "Jain Temple in Calcutta."  1/10/1943

Caption: "Street Scene, Calcutta. Water buffalo a common sight and a principal mode of transportation."  Jan-45

Caption: "ARC Hostel in Calcutta. Mrs. Kitchen, a delightful Anglo-Indian who ran the hostel."  Jan-44

Page 4
No headline

Caption: "The Taj Mahal."
Person in front of horse-drawn carriage. Caption: "This dear, is a Tonga." Mar-44

Caption: "The Taj!" Mar-44

Taj Mahal. Mar-44

Another photo of the Taj Mahal. Mar-44

Kathleen holding flowers in the Taj gardens. Mar-44

Photo of the entrance to the Taj Mahal. Mar-44

Taj Mahal. Caption: "Note scaffolding on Taj dome." Mar-44

Kathleen, Lt. Brownette, children near the entrance to the Taj Mahal. Mar-44

Subheadline: "Secret gardens of the Taj."

Kathleen with two men in the gardens. Mar-44

A woman in front of a tree. Caption: "This is Brownette. She's a bunny." Mar-44

A man in front of a tree. Mar-44

A man and woman in front of a tree. Mar-44

Poscard of man in front of Taj Mahal. Caption: "My favorite RTO officer." On the back: "Christmas - Dear Kay: Boo --- yourself, as tho this picture isn't enough to scare hell out of anyone. Your card arrived this AM and was the most pleasant surprise. May this New Year see all your pleasant dreams come true. Sincerely, Ed"

Caption: "Bill Weaver and I at the Taj Mahal."

Kathleen posing in front of the Taj Mahal.
 Caption: "The Taj Mahal."

Headline: "97th Station Hospital - Agra, India"

Caption: "Retreat at 97th."

97th Station Hospital. Caption: "97th."

97th Station Hospital, different view.

97th Station Hospital with American flag in forefront.

Page 8

No headline

Caption: "Betty Murphy - coworker and I. That's a sweetpea bed in rear." Mar-44

Caption: "Capt. Muller, a visiting medic, Dillon, and Capt. Kroin (of Brooklyn!)")" May-44

A man in uniform. Caption: "C.O."

Group photo. Caption: "In the yard. Mitchell, Capt. Miller, Capt. [illegible], Lt.'s Sullivan and Jordan, Martoccio (squatting) and Capt.'s Gehan and Montgomery, CO and Chief Nurse Bailey." 1944


Page 9

No headline

Kathleen with two women. Caption: "Lucy, Brownette and Staff car - day of my departure for Kashmir - Oct 1944" Oct-44

Caption: "Brownette and Pfc. Clinkscales." On back: "Colored patient has temperature taken by his nurse attendant. He is recuperating and has been treated with blood plasma. At Agra 97th [crossed out] Station Hospital. 27-Jan-44." 1/27/1944

Kathleen with a corporal. Caption: "I don't know the corporals [sic] name." 1944

Kathleen standing with a man on crutches. Caption: "Al Agra."

Caption: "Stinky Sgt. Walter Friend, Cyr (right) and Mattson 884." 11/4/1944

Caption: "My favorite people. Paul Sherwood, Pfc Bob Darling, Boo, Cpl [illegible], and Cpl. Larry Brawhall, all of the 26th at Agra." (2 copies with different captions) 9/1/1944

Caption: "This is outside the dayroom, which is called the 'Relax Shack.' They call me trousers the relaxed slacks. This started to be a candid shot. I never wore them after this photo." 7/1/1944

Photo of Kathleen outside. 1944

Katheen and an MP. Caption: "One of the MPs. At 97th, Al Agra." (2 copies with different captions) 1944

Caption: "Me in a [illegible] - office barracks at the back - offrs' quarters to the right." 3/1/1944

Photo of Kathleen. Caption: "No, don't frame Mar-44"
Kathleen in the garden. Caption: "Ain't the uniform stunning?" Mar-44

Caption: "Dillon in a jeep that's [illegible] of a ward on the left." Mar-44

Woman holding a snake. Caption: "It's alone and I mean the snake. Jeannette Cordray - she came over with us." Mar-44


Group photo of soldiers listening to music. Caption: "Fomeen and Gene Emerald - Part of one of the grandest shows to come over. They were in this overseas unit for about 2 years." Aug-44


No headline

Photo of Kathleen. Caption: "The following [pages of photos] were taken by Sgt. Bill Royer one of whose hobbies was photography. All taken in front of patients' dayroom." Jul-44

No headline [Photos taken by Sgt. Bill Royer] Jul-44

Kathleen lighting a cigarette. Caption: "This one is for the Pall Mall people." Jul-44

Photo of Bill Royer lying in the grass. Jul-44

Caption: "This is clay model of me head, and shows Sgt. Bill Royer working thereon." Jul-44
Photo of Kathleen. Aug-44

Photo of Kathleen sitting in a wicker chair. Aug-44

Photo of Kathleen taken from side profile Aug-44

Photo of Kathleen lighting a cigarette. Caption: "Women at war - unposted - Pall Mall would love this one." (2 copies, one without a caption) Aug-44

Photo of Kathleen looking up toward the camera, slightly blurry Aug-44

Photo of Kathleen. Caption: "Again - unposed." (3 copies) Aug-44

Kathleen posed in a wicker chair

Kathleen sitting in a chair reading a magazine. Caption: "Red Cross hard at work!" May-44

Kathleen standing outside looking at her nail. (2 copies)

Kathleen posed in front of bust. Caption: "This is [the] clay bust Bill made. Strictly a posed photo. How do you like that left hand?"

Kathleen smiling in front of building.

Kathleen in a chair. Caption: "Of course tis me, grinning furiously"

Caption: "These boats meet the steamer. Brahmaputra River."
Caption: "Water taxis."

Photo of a road leading into the hospital.

Photo of cows on a road.

Caption: "Dacca Road. Outside living quarters."

Page 17

No headline

Pencil drawing. Caption: "Sketch of [Floyd] Fedder by Fedder (returning Red Cross purse at a very late hour)."

Page 18

No headline

Pencil drawing. Caption: "The Krak-Shak (Fedder's basha)"

Page 19

No headline

Photo of Floyd Fedder. Caption: "Floyd." On the back: "Christmas Eve of 44 will be brightened by thinking of the one I adore. It doesn't rhyme but certainly expresses the way I feel. Pa."

Page 20

No headline

Photo of a man, possibly Floyd. Caption: "Hold that tiger! The 'Click Kid.'" Back: "They gave me permission to carry that pistol - honest!"

Floyd Fedder in a jeep. Caption: "Fedder."

Floyd Fedder on a dock. Caption: "Fedder at waterfront."

Page

No headline
Floyd sitting on a ladder. Caption: "India 45. Showing off! Krak Shak" (another copy of photo found on page 24)

Floyd standing in front of a jeep. Caption: "The Floy-Floy"

Floyd standing in front of a jeep at a different angle (2 copies, the other is on page 22)

Floyd sitting in a Jeep.

Floyd with his leg up on a tire of the Jeep.

Floyd sitting on the hood of the Jeep.

Floyd standing in front of a jeep at a different angle (2 copies, the other is on page 21)

Floyd. Caption: "Ain't he hansum?"

Floyd sitting on a stool outside.

Floyd sitting down on a chair. Caption in front illegible. Caption on scrapbook: "Sgt's quarters"

Floyd posing outside in front of some trees.

Headline: "The damp landscapes are in Chittagooon, up the line from Tezgaon, Kermatola" 1945

A privy in the woods. Caption: "Approach to privy."

Caption: "The privy!"

A dwelling near a lake. Caption: 'Officers'
quarters"

Photo of officers' quarters. Caption: "More mud."

Floyd sitting on a ladder. Caption: "The front teeth are all mine!" (another copy of photo found on page 21)

Caption: "Q.M. Office"

Caption: "Hqtrs and more mud"

Caption: "Main street and more mud"

Page 25

No headline

Caption: "This is one of a Christmas bracelet." Apr-45

Kathleen smiling. Apr-45


Side photo of Kathleen. Caption: "He likes to take pictures." Apr-45

Photo of Floyd smoking. Caption: "Another candid." Mar-45

Page 26

Headline illegible

Kathleen posing and putting something into her pocket.

Kathleen and Floyd Fedder posing together.

Kathleen with her hand up to shield the sun.

Faded photo of Kathleen with a handkerchief front pocket.

Caption: "Behind me is a lovely garden - behind it is officers' mess and club room."

Kathleen and Floyd again (2 copies).
Kathleen sitting near the garden.

Kathleen sitting in a Jeep.

Blurry photo of Kathleen.

Another blurry photo of Kathleen.

Kathleen smoking. Caption: "One of my three favorites."

Kathleen smiling. Caption: "Another one of my favorites."

Kathleen holding on to a bar. Caption: "I'm only kidding."

Kathleen in a bathing suit. Caption: "[illegible] me hair is [illegible]."

Kathleen on her stomach. Caption: "We're young and gay."

Kathleen posed in a bathing suit. Caption: "Notice the poised toes."

Kathleen in a bathing suit. Caption: "No big if her socks don't match."

Kathleen lying on her stomach. Caption: "And the angels sing."

Upward angle. Caption: "Courtesy genius Fedder."

Kathleen bending over in her bathing suit. Caption: "Well! This is the end…!" Back: "Isn't she cute - all of her! F."
Kathleen posing in her bathing suit. Caption: "You are my sunshine!"  
Apr-45

Kathleen in a bathing suit with her legs crossed. Caption illegible.  
Apr-45

Kathleen in a bathing suit looking up to the sky. Caption: "I love you all!"  
Apr-45

No headline  
Apr-45

Caption: "S/Sgt. 'Wally' Walpole"  
Apr-45

Kathleen with S/Sgt. Walpole  
Apr-45

Kathleen with S/Sgt. Walpole, R. E. Waggoner, and A.C. Williams.  
Apr-45

Kathleen with S/Sgt. Walpole and A.C. Williams  


S/Sgt. Walpole, R. E. Waggoner, A. C. Williams.  

Caption: "A hero, Hallberg and I."  

Headline: "1081st Dayroom (scrap plywood blowtorch)"

Interior of dayroom with bar and tables  

Another view of interior  

Two couples dancing in dayroom  

No headline  

Photo of patrons at the bar in the 1081st dayroom
Photo of couples dancing in the 1081st dayroom

Caption: "Detachment men with a bearer and a dhobi (laundryman)."

Kathleen and detachment men.

Another photo of Kathleen with detachment men.

Caption: "Indian soldier musicians dressed up for a concert."

Caption: "Benedetto, a really [illegible] fellow."

Caption: "Two wonderful lunatics. Capt. Reed and [illegible]"

Kathleen posing with a soldier.

Caption: "This is inscribed, 'To Kay - from the boys of F ward' - This is the VD Ward. Back: 'From the boys of FWD. To Kay from The Sailor APO 433."

Photo of Kathleen posed on a chair.

Headline: "Some of the patients - 198th - Dacca"

Kathleen and two Indian men. Caption: "The Indians are sweepers." Feb-45

A patient sitting shirtless on a bench.

Kathleen holding grocery bags. Caption: "Outside Bata Shoe store - shopping for patients." Apr-45
Group photo of Kathleen, another woman, patients and soldiers. Caption: "Below - Marie, coworker."

Two patients standing outside the hospital.

Two patients with the Indian sweepers.

Group photo soldiers posed with patients.

Kathleen with unknown soldier.

Headline: "Candid shots - ARC at patients - EM ball game"

Kathleen holding pitcher. Caption: "They tell me I have just said, 'Won't you have some more?' How d'you like me flying cap?"

Kathleen serving drinks. Caption: "The American Red Cross serving with our armed forces overseas --- rise and salaam!"

Headline: "By another photo-hobby 'friend''"

Kathleen. Caption: "Can't think of anything to explain this one."

Kathleen against a tree, looking up. Caption: "Haunting, isn't it?"

Kathleen leaning against a tree, smiling.

Kathleen. Caption: "The Bette Davis in me."

Kathleen posed looking over her shoulder.

Headline: "Background here is Raiders' Roost - Krumatola ARC Club"

Kathleen kneeling in front of a jeep. Caption: "I've turned [illegible]!"

Kathleen and a soldier in front of the club.

Kathleen in front of the club.
Three men aboard a boat. Caption: "Big Jack, Colin and Lil Jack."

Caption: "A railroad station. We rode on this train."

Caption: "Snapped from moving car between Kashmir and Rawalpindi. Red and sandy soils, green trees, mts, etc., made marvelous subject. Note terraced farming."

Caption: "A boy from Kashmir, a British BOR."

Caption: "Lt. Jim Coward, 70th Tac Recon sunning on my boat deck"

Caption: "Hall and I just before my leaving for the Kashmir."

Caption: "The Nightingale and part of her staff"

Caption: "Colin, Big and Little Jack, the BOR's next door at Kashmir"

The Nightingale's crew posed on the boat.

Close-up photo of unnamed soldier.

Kathleen relaxing on a boat.

Man on a boat. Caption: "Lt. Jim Coward, making like on a vacation."
Two men on a boat. Caption: "Lts. Jim Coward and Buck Buchanan"

Man on a horse. Caption: "Hall and horse."

Another man on a horse.

Page 43

No headline

Caption: "Marvelous example of a Sikh (in market place in Srinagar in the Kashmir). Medicine hawker's crowd in background."

Caption: "Indian policeman and same Sikh in same place. (Mkt place in Srinagar)"

Page 44

No headline

Caption: "Me on a horse! Horses' name was Pete. He was scareder [sic] than I was."

Dark photo of a man with mountains in background

Photo of what looks like blasted trees. Caption illegible

Trees and a mountain. Caption illegible

Caption: "Killen Marq - the Nightingale's cook being photo'd"

Soldier on a horse.

Caption: "Gulmarg: Cook, Hall and Buck [dog] - who followed us right on up to Killen Marq"

Caption: "Gulmarg - horse coolie"

Page 45

No headline

Caption: "Killen Marg - yep, dat's me." Oct-44

Horses grazing. Caption: "Killen Marg"

No headline Oct-44


Caption: "Shalamar Gardens - dog tres hungry and too friendly. Yes, that's Hall." Oct-44

Caption: "[illegible] Gardens"

A man. Oct-44

Caption: "[illegible] Gardens- unposed - note the gray cardigan"

Caption: "Shalamar Gardens and one of its gardeners"

No headline Oct-44

Caption: "Outside Shalamar - Hall giving a very dirty little girl an anna"

Caption: "Outside Shalamar Gardens - man 3rd from L[eft] is shaving man 4th from L[eft]."

Hall lying face down in the grass. Caption: "UNPOSED"

Caption: "Same barber group - unposed - I was asking them for [illegible] and Hall snapped this."

Unplaced photos

Photo of boat being rowed

Photo of the Nightingale. Caption: "Again the [illegible] - that's Abdul, the bearer, in the
window of the Nightingale."

Caption: "Hall and Kay."

Photo of Hall.

Photo of boats lined up.

Another photo of boats lined up.